SOCIAL AMENITIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT: A SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

A

SYNOPSIS / RESEARCH PROPOSAL

SUBMITTED TO THE

SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

FOR THE DEGREE

OF

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

IN

GEOGRAPHY

UNDER THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

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Year 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Societies always seek ways to satisfy their needs in the immediate vicinity. Wherever man lives he has to adopt himself to his surroundings in order to meet the fundamental necessities. Therefore the first step for a regular development programme is to provide infrastructural facilities for rural development. The development of social amenities in rural settlements will help to improve the economic and cultural life of the people (Smith.D.M); as about 69 per cent of the Indian population lives in rural areas as per 2011 census. In actual practice the rural development has been measured in terms of a variety of suitable criteria. It includes health, education, transport and communication, power supply etc. These indicators among others reflect the quality of functioning of a social system; and efficiency of its economic welfare.

The analysis of the existing housing condition of the region is necessary for the fulfillment of the aims of the balanced regional development. Among all the sciences concerned with development, Economics has achieved the most in generating theory and policy prescriptions (Hobhouse.L.T). Conceptually the term development has been defined as change from a given situation to attain a better one and this change is a basic component of development. It is obvious that improvement in one situation transforming it to a better situation is the normative of desirable change.

The analysis of spatial distribution of social amenities according to the size of settlements helps to identify the population threshold of each amenity. Which is an important aspect of their locational studies as the human settlements produce a certain degree of order in their distributional pattern over the space and this in some way reflects and conditions the functional relations among centre's.

The most accepted and yet the most complex task of regional planning is to prepare a comprehensive regional development plan, an integrated and coordinated plan between the physical, geographical and social components in a given region and interregional, that is between different levels of regions Regional planning is strongly advocated where there are conflicts arising out of administrative jurisdictions,

resource patterns and sharp contrasts in the levels of development between regions of a country which is in the process of development (Sundaram.K.V).

When we talk about the level of development of a particular region the reflection will fall on the history of that region. As we have seen even after the disappearance of the feudal system and the consequent loosening of man's ties with the land, the nucleated village continued to be a significant feature of the Indian rural landscape. The organizational separation of village settlement from agricultural land use is most apparent in rural regions of the New World. In most of these areas rural settlement began with a dispersed rural population, and nucleated settlements grew up primarily as trade centre's to serve the economic and social needs of dispersed population.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study attempts at assessing the existing distribution of social amenities among rural settlements in the Kolhapur District. Leading to the identification of areas having unequal share of social amenities in relation to their population.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In this study, importance of social amenities in individual settlement has been assessed relative to the median population threshold of the size class settlements to which a given settlement belongs. The methodology adopted and developed would be useful in identification of hierarchical order of settlements on the basis of distribution and composite scores of social amenities. Thus, not only a review of existing social amenities is has been attempted but areas of disparities have also been identified with a view to offering some policy implication for indicative as well as locational planning of household amenities. This makes the study relevant in the contemporary Indian context of micro level planning.

THE STUDY REGION

Kolhapur district is selected as the study region for the proposed research work. The region lies between 15˚ 45' and 17˚ 10' North latitudes, and between 73˚ 40' and 74˚ 42'East longitudes. It covers an area of 7685 sq.kms, which is 2.49 % of total area of the state. The Krishna, Panchaganga, Dudhganga, Vedganga, Warna,

Hiranyakeshi, Ghatprabha etc. are the major rivers with their tributaries influencing on agriculture of the study region. In 2011 population of the region is 3876001 which are 3.44 % of the total population of the state. The region includes 12 revenue and 1195 Villeges. Shahuwadi taluka has 133 villeges, Panahala 129, Hatkangale 58, Shirol 54, Karveer 121, Gaganbavada 45, Radhanagri 114, Kagal 84 Ajara 97, Gadhinglaj 90, Chandgad 156, and Bhudhargad 114. In Kolhapur district 68.26 % of population live in rural area. The region is bounded on the north by Sangli district, on the west by Ratnagiri and Sidhudhurg district, on the south and east by Belgum district of Karnataka states.

OBJECTIVES

(i) To analyze the existing levels of social amenities according to population size of settlements and their characteristic inter-relationships.

(ii) To study the spatial distribution of social amenities in relation to their correlates.

(iii) To examine levels of development at tehsil levels on the basis of the distribution of social amenities in rural settlements of the region.

(iv) To find out the population threshold of each amenity on the basis of existing amenities in the rural settlement of the region.

(v) To present the hierarchical classification of rural settlements based on composite scores of social amenities in relation to their distribution in Kolhapur district.

(vi) To propose the priority order of tehsils to plan for locating social amenities in the rural settlements of the region.

(vii) To suggest the policy implications of the locational analysis of social amenities in the region.

HYPOTHESES

The hypotheses are as follows:

i) Internal spatial structure of settlement is a function of its size, that is the larger settlement occupy larger areas and achieve higher hierarchy in terms of social amenities.

ii) The size of settlement, density of population, rate of literacy, proportion of household workers etc. will have positive relations with the composite score of social amenities.

iii) The level of social amenities would decrease with distance and increase after a certain distance from the urban centre.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A large part of the recent interest in social indicators has been connected with the proposal for a regular national social report in United State of America. This idea is generally said to have begun in 1929, with president Hoover' Committee on social trends. It reports "Social trends in the United States" was an attempt to analyze social factors likely to have a bearing on public policy.

In India, it is only recently that some attention has been given to functional aspects of rural settlement. Singh suggested that rural central places have a definite life history and these pass through various stages of evolution. Singh described and analyzed the spatial pattern of central places in the middle Ganga valley using a centrality index. Lahiri recommended the dispersal of services from large cities and towns and their relocation in the surrounding village. Much more geographical is the papers on "Rural Service Centres in Hoogly District" by Guha. Jayaswal examined the morphological and functional attributes of Sachendi, a rural service centre in Kanpur district. However very little progress was made in regular social reporting until 1960. Between 1959 and 1966 the publication of HEW (United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare) indicators and HEW trends represented a small step towards expanding the available social statistics, although the indicators used were rather conventional. Then within a short period four studies were published on the need for social reporting and the problem involved, in a report edited by Bauer.

Ramesh Subramanian (2009) "Rural Development through Village Knowledge Centers in India." This paper examines the implementation of Village knowledge Centers in rural Southern India. We first describe the developmental disparity that exists between urban and rural areas in India, and justify the implementation of rural projects that extend ICTs to rural areas.

Katar Singh and RS Pundir (2000) “Co-operatives and rural development in india.” This paper characterises and distinguishes co-operatives from other forms of organisations and highlights the important place they occupy in India‘s rural economy.

Farooq Ahmad Ganiee (2014) “A Case Study of Rural Development Programmes In India.” This paper an attempt has been made to comprehensively understand the development effort to rebuild the rural life and livelihood.

Dr. Narayan G. Hegde (2010) “Alleviation of rural poverty through sustainable management of natural resources.” This paper initial programme aimed at upliftment of the rural poor, covered agriculture, animal husbandry, roads, health, education, housing, and employment, social and cultural activities.

N.G Hegde (2002) this paper briefly discussed on Challenges of Rural Development and Opportunities for providing Sustainable Livelihood: BAIF’s Approach.

Although several earlier writers considered individual aspects of settlement location. Dawron developed theories, to explain the spatial organization of settlement derived from Christaller's work in southern Germany. Following Christaller's original statement that the numerous attempts tested his propositions and to modify and refine his ideas, by Losch, Isard and Beavon etc. Christaller's spatial equilibrium theory is fundamentally economic in approach and set out to predict how, through competition for space an optimal pattern of settlement will emerge Bylund has proposed within a deterministic framework, six hypothetical models of settlement diffusion based upon his study of early colonization in Lappland Morill attempted to simulate the development of the settlement pattern in southern Sweeden, over the period (1860-1960) in order to discover the major location forces shaping urban development and migration.

In 1965 NCAER brought out a report on market towns and spatial planning. Further in 1968 Bhamri clarified through his papers, theoretical framework for the balanced growth and supply factors in the context of balanced regional development. An account of institutes to develop a level of understanding among researchers and government authorities imparting specialized training programmers towards the aspects and methodology of the micro level planning has been quite encouraging. The

key role in this connection is being played by the NICO, Hyderabad and the Department of Architecture and Regional Planning IIT Kharagpur.

An attempt has been made to delineate a strategy for micro level planning in 1976 by L.S. Bhatt and others taking a case study of Karnal area of Haryana. In this work conceptual as well as empirical aspects have been dealt with based on statistical methods. Regarding the nature and the progress of district planning, the contribution of S. Mandle and K.N. Kabra may it regarded as analytical guidelines for understanding the problem of micro-level integrated planning for social welfare. More recently, Ansari, has made an attempt on distribution and planning strategies for social amenities In Zamania Tehsil, Ghazipur district (U.P.). He analyzed, the spatial distribution of social amenities on the basis of medium population threshold, and presented a hierarchical order of settlements. Another attempt has been made by Khan, on spatial analysis of service centres in his paper. Sharma and Sharma have also analyzed the distance minimization of social services in their paper.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is mainly based on secondary data, covering only rural settlements. The urban centre's have not been taken into the consideration. Generally the certain social amenities are peculiar to the urban centres. It will suffice to say that some social amenities are necessary for the urban centres but the same are extra facilities for rural settlement. Thus the urban and rural settlements differ in form and functions of social amenities. Here an attempt has been made to explain the spatial variation in social amenities in rural areas with urban centre's being considered as an explanatory variable.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study will be based mainly of the secondary data, which will be collected from the census of India 1991 to 2011: District census Hand Books, Town and villages directory of Kolhapur district, Statistical abstracts of Maharashtra and India, as well national sample survey organization, SOI Toposheet, satellite imageries, etc. The primary data will also been generated from Selected Villages collecting through field work and questioner. The units of study were being tahasil and Village

levels. Some information would also been collected from books, journals, statistical abstract, socio-economic surveys and with the help of GPS Instrument etc.

The methodology is as follows:

1. The relative importance of social amenities has been worked out through median population threshold method which in turn is applied to compute the value of composite scores of individual settlements. Finally on the basis of composite score of social amenities of each settlement, the hierarchical order of settlements has been determined.
2. Correlation coefficients have been calculated to determine the relationship between the variables viz. social amenities, density of population, rate of literacy, size of settlement, distance from urban centres, proportion of household industry to total work force, percentage of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe to total population.
3. The multiple regression technique has been applied to find out functional relationship between social amenities and their correlates.
4. Similarly the cumulative frequency curve has been used for working out the concentration of population and the spatial pattern of settlement with social amenities respectively.
5. Besides the statistical tools, cartographic devices like isopleths, choropleth and scatter diagrams have been used extensively for visual expression and analysis of the phenomena.

CHAPTER SCHEME

The thesis has been divided into nine chapters.

Chapter I- Introduction

The first chapter deals with the general introduction, it includes statement of the problem, significance of the study, literature survey, objectives, hypotheses and methodology.

Chapter II – Geographical Profile of Kolhapur District

The second chapter covers the introductory statements about the region that is physiography, drainage, climatic conditions, soils and natural vegetation.

Chapter III – Demographic Characteristics of Kolhapur District

The chapter three deals with the analysis of demographic characteristics that is growth of population, density of population, sex ratio, rate of literacy, occupation structure and the distribution of scheduled caste, and scheduled tribes.

Chapter IV – Settlement System in Kolhapur District

Analyses the spatial distribution of the rural and urban settlements according to population size. It also deals with spacing and density of rural settlements at tehsil level in the region.

Chapter V- Existing Social Amenities in Rural Settlements

The fifth chapter analyses the distribution of social amenities, on the basis of cumulative percentage from the population size class of settlements.

Chapter VI- Levels of Regional Development of Kolhapur District

The sixth chapter attempt has been made to determine the levels of development at tehsil level, on the basis of composite scores of social amenities.

Chapter VII- Composite Score of Social Amenities and Hierarchy of Rural Settlements

The seventh chapter brings out the median population threshold (MTP) of each indicator of social amenity. This helps to determine the functional hierarchy of the settlements on the basis of composite score of social amenity of each settlement. Median population threshold are based on the existing social amenities, of the study area. Thus it helps to identify the imbalances in distribution of amenities according to population threshold in the villages of the region.

Chapter VIII- Social Amenities and their Correlates

Chapter eight deals with relationships between social amenities and a number of variables. Various aspects of the relationship between explained variable and explanatory variables have been assessed with help of correlation and multiple regression analysis.

Chapter IX- Conclusion and Suggestions

Last chapter summarizes all the analyses, presented in this thesis, and brings out the salient conclusion and suggestions.

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